

## 2A GRAMMAR pronouns

- a Read the following email and circle the correct pronouns.



### New Message

To: Giovanna Rossi From: Aileen Campbell Subject: Visiting Glasgow!

Hi Giovanna!

Great to hear that you and Alessandro are going to be visiting Glasgow over the summer. I'm sure you're going to love it. As far as I'm concerned, <sup>1</sup>there's / it's nowhere in the world quite like it.

<sup>2</sup>It's / There's the people in Glasgow who really make the city something special. I think the whole way they express <sup>3</sup>them / themselves is very different from other parts of the UK. For example,

<sup>4</sup>there's / it's not uncommon to exchange a few words with the person sitting next to <sup>5</sup>yourself / you on the bus or waiting in a queue, and <sup>6</sup>you / one sometimes end up having a laugh with them, too! It's part of the city's outgoing spirit and sense of humour.

You told me you're feeling a little nervous about understanding the Glasgow accent, but I don't think you need to worry too much about that. Of course <sup>7</sup>there's / it's the problem that the city has its own dialect, but every visitor I know has been able to manage, and to find <sup>8</sup>his / their way around or go shopping by <sup>9</sup>themselves / himself. And you might be interested in listening for some of the expressions some Glasgow people use to address <sup>10</sup>one another / themselves. For example, if someone calls you 'hen' don't be offended, because <sup>11</sup>they / you aren't trying to say you look like a chicken! In fact, it's an affectionate local greeting for women. Finally, <sup>12</sup>it's / there's so much to see and do in Glasgow. I know you're passionate about art and architecture, so I think you'll really appreciate the amazing buildings and famous museums and galleries.

Have a great time!

Aileen

- b Complete the following email with a suitable pronoun in each space.



### New Message

To: Sofia Gomez From: Andy Fordham Subject: RE: Coming to Oxford

Hi Sofia,

What a great idea to take some time off from your job to study English in Oxford.

For anyone who wants to improve <sup>1</sup>their language skills, I don't think <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ can be anything better than spending some time immersed in the language.

<sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ say that one always learns something when <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ goes to Oxford. <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ can't be denied that although the city is small, it is a centre for many kinds of learning, with its two universities and numerous schools and colleges where <sup>6</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ are able to study everything from astrophysics to English grammar!

Anyone who arrives in Oxford will soon realize that <sup>7</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ are in a truly international city. Most of the people who work in the shops and restaurants in town are used to dealing with visitors, so I don't think you'll have much trouble making <sup>8</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ understood. As for the way people interact, well, I find that in general, they're very polite. I mean, if you accidentally bump into someone in the street, <sup>9</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ are actually quite likely to say sorry to you, not the other way round! However, people who don't know <sup>10</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ are less likely to go out of their way and start a conversation just to pass the time. You'll find that <sup>11</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ 's no shortage of historical and cultural attractions in Oxford, from the picturesque River Thames to the beautiful old colleges. What's more, <sup>12</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ 's only a short train journey from London, so you can easily see some other places in the UK if you have time.

Hope this is of some use.

All the best for your trip,

Andy

### activation

- c Write your own email to a visitor from abroad, telling them what to expect when they visit the place where you live. In your email, try to use at least six of the pronouns from a and b above.

## 2B GRAMMAR the past: habitual events and specific incidents

- a Read the story and put the verbs in the correct form. There is sometimes more than one answer.



I started school at the age of four at my local primary. I <sup>1</sup> 'd been looking forward (look forward) to starting school for some time because I <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (not have) any siblings, so I thought it was going to be the perfect opportunity to make new friends and have fun. On the first day, I <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (play) with my new classmates when the teacher <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (interrupt) us and asked us to pay attention. We all stopped what we had been doing and she introduced us to the class pet – Hammy the Hamster. He was the pet I <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ always \_\_\_\_\_ (want) but <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ never \_\_\_\_\_ (allow) to have.

The teacher told us that each child – in strict alphabetical order – could take Hammy home with them for one weekend and then bring him back the following Monday.

I could hardly wait for it to be my weekend. I <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (get) to school very early every day and I <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (feed) and play with him. I <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (not want) to let the other children near him because I wanted Hammy to be my new best friend!

After three weeks, my weekend finally arrived. My mum hadn't been too keen on having a hamster in the house but I'd been very persuasive – I <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (be) very persistent as a child – and finally she agreed. I was so happy.

Saturday morning was a beautiful, sunny day so I thought Hammy would appreciate a morning walk in the garden. However, as I <sup>11</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (take) him out of his cage, he <sup>12</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (bite) me, I <sup>13</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (drop) him, and Hammy ran away!

I <sup>14</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (not be) a child who <sup>15</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (cry) very often, but on that occasion I spent all weekend crying and looking for Hammy. Sadly, though, Hammy <sup>16</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (go) forever and I never saw him again.

The worst was yet to come, however. On Monday I had to go back to school with an empty cage. As I <sup>17</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (explain) to the teacher what <sup>18</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (happen), I realized that the rest of the class were looking at me with hatred in their eyes; after all, I had lost the adored class pet! Nobody <sup>19</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (speak) to me for at least a week and I remember it being the worst feeling I <sup>20</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (experience) in the four short years of my life.

### activation

- b Think of a time in your childhood when you did something wrong. Write a paragraph describing the incident.

## 2A COMMUNICATIVE All about English

- a** Read the comments from around the world about learning or using English. Is the situation the same or different in your country? How do you feel about it?

‘If you ask me, the one thing that would really improve the level of English here would be if they stopped dubbing all the American films and TV programmes, and had them in English with subtitles. But I don’t think they’ll ever do it. The politicians wouldn’t dare.’

*Carla, Venice, Italy*



‘At a lot of secondary schools in my country, the main aim is to get the children to pass written exams in English – spoken English isn’t evaluated. I feel that’s a mistake because later on in life it’s more important to speak the language rather than write it.’

*Raquel, Seville, Spain*



‘Some of my friends have studied English abroad in the summer holidays. The ones who did courses in the UK when they were younger are the ones whose level of English is really good. Personally, I feel that if you haven’t studied English in an English-speaking country, you’re at a bit of a disadvantage.’

*Ahmad, Istanbul, Turkey*



‘Some people don’t have the time or money to go to a language school to study English – I’m one of those. So, a few weeks ago I downloaded an app to help me learn English. I really like it – it lets me study whenever and wherever I want. And the downside? Perhaps that the app doesn’t really explain the grammar, but as I’ve never really liked grammar, that’s not a problem.’

*Dimitri, Athens, Greece*



‘In my opinion, nowadays people in public life really ought to be able to speak good English. I feel really embarrassed when I hear how some of our politicians or public figures speak.’

*Akiko, Osaka, Japan*



‘Personally, I think that pop groups in my country shouldn’t sing in English. I mean, I know it’s more universal, but they aren’t English, and not everybody in Hungary understands English. I think they should sing in Hungarian.’

*András, Debrecen, Hungary*



‘In some secondary schools in my country they are now teaching other subjects like maths and science in English, apart from the normal English language classes. In general, I think it’s a really good idea – as long as the teachers’ English is good, of course.’

*Karolina, Brno, Czech Republic*



‘In French we use a lot of English words like *weekend*, *news*, *leader*, *cool*, *OK* – words like that. I personally hate it. I think we ought to use our own words for these things, not just borrow from English.’

*Marc, Grenoble, France*



- b** Talk to a partner and compare your ideas.



## 2B COMMUNICATIVE Childhood questionnaire

- a Read the questionnaire and choose six questions to ask a partner.
- b Ask the questions and answer the ones your partner asks you.

1 Are there any clothes you had as a child that you particularly loved or hated? Did you use to have to wear clothes that belonged to your older brothers or sisters?

2 Were there any favourite places where you used to like going to play? Did you go alone or with your friends? What did you do there?

3 What was your favourite sweet or chocolate bar? Can you describe it? Why did you like it so much?

4 Who were the people you felt closest to as a child? What do you remember about them?

5 Did you get pocket money? How much? Did you use to spend it immediately or did you sometimes save it? What for?

6 When you were growing up, was there anybody you really looked up to or wanted to be like?

7 Did your parents use to read you a story before you went to sleep or did you read stories yourself? What was your favourite story?



8 Did you have to do any chores while you were growing up? What were they? How did you feel about having to do them?

9 Who was the oldest member of your immediate or extended family when you were a child? What do you remember about him / her?

10 As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Do you still have the same ambition or did you change your mind? Why?

11 What were your typical family meals like? Did you use to all eat together? Where? Who used to cook?

12 As a child, what was your favourite special occasion, e.g. birthday, holiday? How did you use to celebrate it?

13 If you did something naughty, how did your parents punish you? Can you remember which type of punishment was the most effective?

14 Were you ever a member of a youth club or organization, e.g. the Scouts? How long did you belong to it for? Did you enjoy it?

## 2B SONG The Best Day 1 42 MP3

a Read the definitions and complete the words.

- 1 a piece of outdoor clothing that is worn over other clothes to keep warm or dry c o a t
- 2 the quality of being strong \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 take something suddenly, quickly \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 a yellow precious metal used for making coins, jewellery and decorative objects \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 to look at the goods in shop windows, usually without intending to buy anything \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 a large, round vegetable with thick orange skin \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 a person on a ship who attacks other ships at sea in order to steal from them \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 a type of magnetic tape used for recording television pictures and sound \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 frightened of sth or afraid that sth bad might happen \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 the past tense of a phrasal verb which means to develop into an adult \_\_\_\_\_

b Listen to the song and complete it with the words from a.

### The Best Day

I'm five years old  
It's getting cold  
I've got my big <sup>1</sup> coat on

I hear your laugh  
And look up smiling at you  
I run and run  
Past the <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ patch  
And the tractor rides  
Look now, the sky is <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_  
I hug your legs  
And fall asleep on the way home

I don't know why all the trees change in the fall  
I know you're not <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ of anything at all  
Don't know if Snow White's house is near or far away  
But I know I had the best day with you today

I'm thirteen now  
And don't know how  
My friends could be so mean  
I come home crying  
And you hold me tight  
And <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the keys

And we drive and drive  
Until we find a town far enough away  
And we talk and <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_  
Till I've forgotten all their names

I don't know who I'm gonna talk to now at school  
I know I'm laughing

On the car ride home with you  
Don't know how long it's gonna take to feel okay  
But I know I had the best day with you today

I have an excellent father  
His <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ is making me stronger  
God smiles on my little brother  
Inside and out he's better than I am  
I <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ in a pretty house  
And I had space to run  
And I had the best days with you  
There is a <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ I found  
From back when I was three  
You set up a paint set in my kitchen  
And you're talking to me  
It's the age of princesses and <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ ships  
And the seven dwarfs  
And Daddy's smart  
And you're the prettiest lady in the whole wide world

And now I know why all the trees change in the fall  
I know you were on my side  
Even when I was wrong  
And I love you for giving me your eyes  
Staying back and watching me shine and

I didn't know if you knew  
So I'm taking this chance to say  
That I had the best day with you today

#### SONG FACTS

*The Best Day* is a track from the album *Fearless* which is American singer / songwriter Taylor Swift's second studio album. Swift wanted to show her mother that she thought of her as her best friend and so she composed and recorded *The Best Day* without her mother's knowledge. She gave it to her mother on Christmas Day as a present!